



MidnightExpress

919th Special Operations Wing

Duke Field, Fla.

Vol. 10, No. 12 December 2005



Photo by Greg Murry

Go getters

Wing recruiters gather at the Bull Pen here Nov. 10 for Chief Master Sgt. Lane Whitlow's pinning ceremony. Pictured are (left to right from top row) Tech. Sgts. Ken Toon and David Bishop, Staff Sgt. Darin Thomas, Tech. Sgt. Mitchell Randle, Master Sgt. Robert Bazor, Tech. Sgt.

Shawn Phillips, Master Sgts. Jim Inskipt and Adam Waldie, Chief Master Sgt. Lane Whitlow, Master Sgts. Angela Edwards and Erika Bueno. A related story about 919th Special Operations Wing recruiters, what they do, and awards they won at their annual conference is on Page 4.



Dark Wolves:
Unified,
focused,
ready

See Page 3



Wing runs
through
practice
deployment

See Pages 6-7



Wing vice
commander
looks to
future

See Page 8

Commander thanks wing, sends holiday greetings

By Col. Mark Kyle
919th SOW commander

This year, as in years past, many of our members were deployed and were not able to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday with their families. Fortunately, most all of us will be home for the Christmas and New Year's holidays and be able to gather with friends and family as we celebrate these special days.

It's been a busy year. We prepared for inspections, hosted inspection teams, deployed to dangerous places around the globe while also taking care of our routine duties and training needs at the wing.

We didn't just make it through the year, we did it successfully. Many of our people and units won awards for their excellence. I am proud and honored to command such a talented group of people who are

regularly recognized as the best by our major commands and throughout the Air Force.

To the full-timers here, I appreciate the work you do on a daily basis. To reservists who must balance their time here with their civilian job, I applaud you. You have all done a terrific job supporting the needs of our nation as we fight the ongoing war on terrorism.

As we all know, this war won't be over soon. We will continue to be called upon in the months and years ahead to provide the same expert services we have provided thus far. So, if you do have extra time during the holidays, take the break and spend that most valuable asset with those you care about the most.

I hope you have a wonderful holiday season. Stay safe and remember that safety is no accident!

Season highlights importance of life

By Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley
Air Force Reserve Command commander

As the holiday season and another year approach, let us take time to consider what is really important – family and friends.

During this time of year, we tend to hold our families a little closer, realizing that what we take for granted can change in an instant. We need to remember our friends who have endured great sacrifices or those who have suffered great loss on the Gulf Coast.

It is your realization of what is important, coupled with your dedication to duty, that enables you to serve our great nation so well. You know the

price of freedom and you are willing to pay it. I salute those who have deployed in harm's way and supported the Global War on Terrorism, as well as those who have worked so hard to assist with hurricane rescue and relief.

As in the past, we face new challenges in 2006 – aircraft conversions, participation in air and space expeditionary force deployments and mission changes to name a few. I am confident you will once again do our country proud.

Jan and I wish you and yours happy holidays and a safe, joyous New Year. We are proud of you and what you do for America. (AFRC News Service)

STREET BEAT: If you could choose one holiday gift for yourself, what would it be?

"A vacation to Cancun, Mexico, after repair from Hurricane Wilma with a bus load of unit members."

Captain Edward Torres Jr.
919th Special Operations Wing
financial management officer in charge



"I'd like to have more time to spend with my family and loved ones."

Master Sgt. Lisa Peterson
919th Special Operations Wing
information management



"A long walk on the beach followed by a candle-light dinner and a meaningful conversation with a classy woman."

Staff Sgt. Jon Lukowski
919th Maintenance Squadron
jet engine technician



"A Louis Vuitton purse with a pair of shoes to match."

Airman 1st Class Karmen Lewis
919th Mission Support Flight
assistant NCO in charge of readiness



"A wise man once said 'a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches.' That's what I want for me and my family. I'd also like a big 4x4 truck that gets good gas mileage."

Sandra Henry
919th Special Operations Wing
editor, Midnight Express



Dark Wolves: Unified, focused, ready

By Lt. Col. R. Brian "Rizzo" Risner
919th Communications Squadron commander

The 919th Communications Squadron, the Dark Wolves, will be six months young Dec. 5. We have been morphing at an astounding pace: moving the unit to two different locations, building numerous unit programs from scratch, and realigning our forces for 47 newly tasked special operations missions. All this, while we continue to provide improved communications support to the wing.

While the dizzying pace has been exhilarating, it has also stretched our limited manpower. Next year's Operational Readiness Inspection represents our first big test.

One of the most exciting aspects of bringing communicators back together is the consolidation of some of the wing's finest Airmen into a unified force. The Dark Wolves have already developed a strong unit cohesion and esprit de corps as demonstrated by almost 60 percent of the squadron participating in the wing's Combat Dining-In. Master Sgts. Paul Bouton and Laurie Klausutis did a great job organizing our troops and designing a unique uniform for all the Wolves to wear.

Another building block in our unit cohesion has been the adoption of our squadron logo and patch theme. Our squadron patch design, based upon artwork originally designed by squadron member Master Sgt. Keith Brooks, is currently in coordination and truly represents the 919th communicators. The design incorporates a howling wolf with lightning bolts and a full moon encircling the winged sword. Just as wolves operate in packs or singly, so does the 919th CS. We deploy communicators in multi-person Unit Type Codes employing our Joint Broadcast System or Initial Communications Element packages, and as single-person UTCs that provide radio maintenance or information management support. Our special operations communications capabilities are represented by the winged sword embedded in the full moon.

From day one, squadron leadership



adopted Col. Kyle's vision of "outstanding or out-processing." To ensure the Dark Wolves are outstanding, many have volunteered for the cross-training required by our new missions and have embraced the fact that we are training to be indistinguishable from our active-duty counterparts.

The crown jewel of the communications squadron is our tactical communications flight led by Maj. Brian Lowmiller and his operations and maintenance team of Master Sgt. Flo Holbrook and Sergeant Klausutis. The deployed communications capabilities provided by the tactical flight

are the centerpiece of the 919th CS's contribution to Air Force Special Operations Command's worldwide mission. Headlining our capabilities is our ICE UTC which provides on-site classified and unclassified internet capability (SIPRNET, NIPRNET) and telephone capability through our state of the art satellite communications package. Deployed commanders have also grown to love the capabilities provided by our Joint Broadcast System. The JBS can be configured to enable anyone with SIPRNET access at a deployed location the capability to monitor the radios being used to communicate with mission aircraft and, if needed, transmit on the radios from their duty location.

Our plans flight, headed by 2nd Lt. John "Duke" Rodge and his superintendent Senior Master Sgt. Steve Chambers, is also making significant contributions. In support of October's Ability to Survive and Operate Exercise, they developed the wing's first ATSO exercise annex K. The annex, which was championed by Senior Master Sgt. Dave Craig, our senior air reserve technician, ensured everyone knew how to keep information flowing both up and down the chain of command to help leaders at all levels make informed decisions.

Closer to home, our networks flight is improving service to our members. The flight, headed by Capt. Karl Miller and his superintendent Sergeant Craig, continues to improve information flow within the wing and is putting new information management tools in place every month. The wing's Web page has been revamped, increasing its utility and making a wealth of information readily available to the wing's traditional reservists when they are away from Duke Field. Our new centralized phone number, 885-HELP (885-4357), provides our customers easy access to get their communications needs addressed.

By placing the wing's communications leaders under one umbrella, we are able to more effectively ensure our communications assets and processes accomplish both the wing's and AFSOC's missions.

The Dark Wolves stand unified, focused and ready to meet all your communications needs.

“One of the most exciting aspects of bringing communicators back together is the consolidation of some of the wing's finest Airmen into a unified force.”

— Lt. Col. R. Brian "Rizzo" Risner
919th Communications Squadron commander



Photo by Jasmine DeNamur



Photo by Sandra Henry

(Left) Tech. Sgt. Mitchell Randle fingerprints his latest recruit, Benjamin Jones, at the recruiting service office here Nov. 7. (Above) Master Sgt. Erika L. Bueno talks to a potential recruit who visited her office Nov. 3. Sergeant Bueno gets about five walk-ins a day in addition to her scheduled appointments.

Wing recruiters prevail at annual awards ceremony

By Sandra Henry
919th SOW Public Affairs

Wing recruiters packed a lot of weight Oct. 7 as they returned from their annual recruiting conference at the Savannah, Ga., Combat Readiness Training Center.

They earned plaques, trophies, medallions, eagles, and even an MP3 player for their accomplishments during the period Sept. 1 to Aug. 31. Besides individual awards, they were named the top recruiting office in 10th Air Force with 163 percent of goal and earned the number two slot in the Air Force Reserve Command.

Their goal was to recruit 225 people, said Chief Master Sgt. Lane Whitlow, senior 919th SOW recruiter.

"We achieved our goal in May and recruited 366 people overall," he said. "I wanted to be the top recruiting location, but I can live with 0.2 percent under the top team in AFRC."

Not all of the recruits came to the 919th Special Operations Wing, said the chief. About 200 came here, and the other 166 went elsewhere.

Line recruiters, responsible for recruiting both prior and non-prior service members, also fill Reserve positions at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., and Maxwell AFB, Ala. In-service recruiters, responsible for recruiting active-duty members, recruit for any

unit depending on where the individual is relocating to. All recruiters work to fill individual mobilization augmentee positions, he said.

Col. Mark Kyle, wing commander, was in Savannah for the awards presentations.

"Our recruiters earned so many awards, they couldn't stay in their seats," he said. "They are phenomenal. The number of trips they took forward to pick

up awards was a testimony of the excellent work they are doing for the wing and the Air Force overall. They not only filled critical positions at the wing, they helped the Air Force with their force-shaping program."

Within 10th Air Force, Master Sgt. Adam Waldie was recognized as the top line recruiter and Chief Whitlow was the top senior recruiter.

Recruiters who accumulated 100 points by recruiting at least 60 people during the year received the Century Club award. Sergeant Waldie earned that award as well as Master Sgts. Jim Inskipt and Randi Baum, former wing recruiters who were reassigned during the year.

The Rising Star award was earned by Staff Sgt. Darin Thomas; and Master Sgt. Erika Bueno and Tech. Sgt. Ken Toon each received an award for superior achievement for making 110 percent of their goal.

Wing Recruiting Office

Unit members can help recruiters by talking about the Air Force Reserve to their family, friends and co-workers and referring them to the people listed below:

Chief Master Sgt. Lane Whitlow: Senior Recruiter, (850) 883-6385/6297
Master Sgt. Angela Edwards: Eglin In-Service Recruiter, (850) 882-6275
Master Sgt. Adam Waldie: Hurlburt In-Service Recruiter, (850) 884-2656
Master Sgt. Erika Bueno: Fort Walton Beach Line Recruiter, (850) 243-5999
Master Sgt. Robert Bazor: Mobile Line Recruiter, (251) 476-7474
Tech. Sgt. Shawn Phillips: Mobile Line Recruiter, (251) 476-7474
Tech. Sgt. Ken Toon: Tallahassee Line Recruiter, (850) 297-2477
Tech. Sgt. Mitchell Randle: Duke Field Line Recruiter, (850) 883-6385/6297
Tech. Sgt. David Bishop: Tyndall In-Service/Line Recruiter, (850) 283-8384
Staff Sgt. Darin Thomas: Pensacola Line Recruiter, (850) 477-0730
Terry Free: Management Assistant, (850) 883-6385

See **RECRUITERS**, Page 5



U.S. Air Force photo

The Air Force and U.S. Special Operations Command plan to purchase 50 CV-22 Ospreys, the special operations forces variant of the V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft. The 8th Special Operations Squadron will be the first unit to fly the CV-22.

Second Air Force CV-22 arrives at Edwards AFB

The Air Force's second CV-22 Osprey arrived at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Oct. 27 — two months earlier than the contract's due date.

The first Air Force CV-22 was delivered for electromagnetic testing to Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md., Sept. 16 and will arrive at Edwards in December. The third CV-22 will be delivered in February.

The Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center will use these three aircraft to conduct an operational utility evaluation next summer. If the CV-22 completes the evaluation successfully, it will be certified for use in training operations at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., next fall. The initial operational test and evaluation for the CV-22 is planned to begin October 2007.

The Navy's Operational Test and Evaluation Force and AFOTEC operation-

ally evaluated the MV-22, the Marine variant of the Osprey, between March and June this year. They rated it operationally effective, suitable and survivable.

The CV-22 is the special operations forces variant of the V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft. Modifications to the Osprey aircraft made for the CV-22 variant are concentrated in the areas of communication, navigation, mission management and aircraft survivability. The Osprey flight characteristics, including vertical takeoff and landing, short takeoff and landing and conversion to airplane mode provide considerable operational flexibility from small landing zone operations to high-speed (230 knots) flight.

The Air Force and U.S. Special Operations Command plan to purchase 50 CV-22s to conduct day or night long-range infiltration, exfiltration and resupply of special operations forces. (*Air Force Print News*)

RECRUITERS, Continued from Page 4

During the award period, the focus was on in-service recruiting, said Chief Whitlow. The Air Force was over its congressionally-mandated limit on the number of people on active duty, and moving people from active-duty to reserve slots was part of an Air Force initiative to shape the force.

Of those recruited, 77 percent were in their current Air Force Specialty Codes, saving the wing thousands of dollars in technical school money, he said. Twenty-eight percent went into critical AFSCs.

The big shift this year is going back to the non-prior service market and also recruiting prior servicemembers, said the chief.

One wing recruiter tapping that market is Sergeant Bueno in the Fort Walton Beach office. A recruiter since 1999, she previously worked as an in-service recruiter. Moving to a downtown office and meeting people in the community was a nice change, she said. Although it's not unusual for her to work a 60-hour week, it's not all about work.

"I like this job because we get to help people like single parents. Active duty can't take them, but they can serve as reservists," she said. "We can start them out on a path and give them a career for life."

It's not just about numbers for the chief either.

"I like working with people and helping them achieve their goals," he said. "The Air Force Reserve gives people education money, training and a skill. We do our part, but the Air Force Reserve sells itself."



Photo by Charley Starr

Swearing in

Michael W. Wynne (right), takes the oath of office Nov. 3 from Pete Geren during his swearing-in ceremony as the 21st secretary of the Air Force. The ceremony took place in front of 4,200 U.S. Air Force Academy cadets during their noontime meal. In this role, Secretary Wynne is responsible for the affairs of the Department of the Air Force, including organizing, training, equipping and providing for the welfare of its nearly 370,000 men and women on active duty, 180,000 members of the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve, and 160,000 civilians and their families. He served in the Air Force for seven years, ending his service as a captain and assistant professor of astronautics at the U.S. Air Force Academy. (*Air Force Print News*)

(Below) Wing members who manned the mobility line at the aerial delivery hangar processed 470 reservists for deployment during the Operational Readiness Exercise Nov. 2-6. Station representatives for eligibility, identification, emergency data, chaplain, legal, finance, family readiness and immunizations were on hand to ensure deployment preparation was successful.



(Above) Wing Chaplain (Capt.) Barry Dickson attempts to calm an "irate spouse" by asking her to step outside. The spouse, played by Master Sgt. Michelin Smith, 919th Operations Support Squadron, broke into the deployment processing line Nov. 4 during the Operational Readiness Exercise and demanded to know why her husband was deploying.

(Below) (Left to right) Team leader Tech. Sgt. Larry Smith, and team members Staff Sgt. Barry Bailey and Tech. Sgt. Christopher Hill drive all-terrain vehicles to be inspected for mock deployment during the ORE. The riders are from the 919th Security Forces Squadron.



Photos by Senior Airman Erik Hofmeyer

Wing practices deployment skills for June ORI

Senior Airman Erik Hofmeyer
SOW Public Affairs

skills were polished for some reservists, and others experienced a full-scale deployment exercise for the very first time. The 919th Special Operations Wing's initial response and ability to deploy its personnel assets to a combat zone were evaluated during the Operational Readiness Exercise Nov. 2-6.

The wing trained deploying as a combat wing according to Air Force Special Operations Command regulations, said Maj. Kevin Nicholson, Operational Readiness Inspection preparation team chief — also known as the "Warlord."

Deploying as an entire combat wing has been different from deploying for previous contingencies; in the last few years only certain squadrons have deployed at any one time, Major Nicholson explained.

The Readiness Assistance Visit team from 10th Air Force evaluated the unit during the ORE.

Nicholson oversaw many of the initial response and deployment functions in order to point out areas for improvement, said Lt. Col. Edward Anderson, 919th SOW chief of plans and pro-

cesses. Like Field reservists — 470 to be exact — processed through the mobility line in the aerial port of entry hangar, said Jim Skinner, logistics management specialist and ORE logistics plans representative. Station representatives for eligibility, identification, emergency data, chaplain, medical, finance, family readiness, and immunization were on hand to ensure deployment preparation.

Deployment line representatives were subjected to three secretly planned exercise scenarios involving an irate spouse, a conscientious objector and a false identification card. The irate spouse, played by Master Sgt. Melin Smith, 919th Operations Support Squadron, stormed into the mobility line demanding to know why the Air Force was taking her husband.

To test the response of the legal and chaplain's offices, Master Sgt. Mike Neau, Civil Engineer Squadron, played a conscientious objector who refused to deploy. Senior Master Sgt. Bob Turman, 919th Medical Squadron, attempted to go through the mobility line with a woman's photo on an altered identification card.

In addition to the mobility line, reservists

“

We have to take limited availability and maximize results in preparation for the ORI.

— Maj. Kevin Nicholson
919th Operations Support Squadron
Operational Readiness Inspection
preparation team chief

”

helped marshal 119 tons of cargo, said Mr. Skinner. Representatives from each squadron hauled necessary equipment to the inspection area manned by a crew from the 96th Logistics Readiness Squadron based at Eglin.

Inspectors checked the equipment to ensure the cargo was air worthy and marshaled it into chocks using computer generated layouts, said Tech. Sgt. Philip Lester, 96th LRS NCO in charge of air operations.

The exercise was the wing's opportunity to learn what the AFSOC Inspector General will be looking for during the June and July ORI and how attention to detail can pay off, said Mr. Skinner.

Now the wing has a baseline for evaluation, establishing areas needing improvement for successful deployment, said Major Nicholson. The next step is to correct the deficiencies in preparation for the March ORE.

Unit Deployment Managers are the key to improvement, he said. Reservists who hold that crucial position serve as their commander's

representative for deployment.

"For traditional reservists, it's an uphill battle; being a UDM is almost a full-time job," he said.

Due to unit obligations and real-world operations, availability of reservists has been limited.

"We have to take limited availability and maximize results in preparation for the ORI," he explained.

The RAV team warned of a more demanding ORE in March, with tighter time constraints and a few curveballs to test wing members, said Mr. Skinner.

It will incorporate the same unit-generated exercise; however, in addition to the initial response and deployment operations, an employment operations evaluation will be added, said Colonel Anderson. It will include individual units performing their wartime taskings and skills.

Also, 10th Air Force will bring a larger RAV team with them, and the evaluation will be much more thorough, said Colonel Anderson.

The March exercise is extremely critical because it is the last chance to train together as a combat wing before the ORI, said Major Nicholson. There are a lot of unit members in new leadership positions, and these exercises give them the opportunity to learn how to do their job the correct way.

"Just like with anything, you can read all you want about deployment procedures, but it takes actual practice to be fully prepared," he said.



Master Sgt. Robert Goodson (right), 919th Security Forces Squadron, processes a pallet during the Operational Readiness Exercise Nov. 2-6. Reservists helped marshal 119 tons of cargo during the exercise. Representatives from each squadron hauled necessary equipment to the inspection area manned by a crew from the 96th Logistics Readiness Squadron based at Eglin. An Eglin inspector observes Sergeant Goodson.

Vice commander focuses on wing's future

By Sandra Henry
919th SOW Public Affairs

Col. Kenneth Ray, former 711th Special Operations Squadron commander, isn't flying as much now since he took on the duties of wing vice commander in September. Instead of guiding the squadron and flying combat missions, his primary focus now is to ensure the wing and its people are ready for the future.

"I now have an opportunity to broaden my scope of concern beyond the issues that affect a single squadron," said Colonel Ray. "I need to be smart on issues that affect maintenance, the support group, services, cops – the whole spectrum of what we do here in the 919th."

"My job, like everyone else out here, is to support the wing commander as he carries out his vision of where the 919th needs to go for the future," he said.

Working on issues that will affect wing missions beyond 2010 will be his primary task, said Colonel Ray. But some changes are right around the corner.

U.S. Special Operations Command and Air Force Special Operations Command have determined that the 8th Special Operations Squadron here will return to Hurlburt Field late next summer, he said. That will have an impact on our flying mission. Additionally, the Combat Talon Is will likely be leaving Duke Field in the 2010-2011 timeframe, which will also cause significant changes.

But as some missions are completed and the wing moves into a new era, members can expect new and diverse challenges.

"AFSOC has some emerging



Photo by Joe Piccorossi

Col. Kenneth Ray speaks his last words as commander of the 711th Special Operations Squadron during the change of command ceremony here Sept. 10. He took on duties as the wing's vice commander a few days later.

“My job, like everyone else out here, is to support the wing commander as he carries out his vision of where the 919th needs to go for the future.”

— Col. Kenneth Ray
919th Special Operations Wing
vice commander

missions that we may be able to participate in,” said Colonel Ray. “There is potential for significant growth for the entire wing. At this point, I can say that change is a’ coming. My goal is for us to make that change with as little turbulence as possible.”

In addition to his task to help shape the wing's future,

Colonel Ray manages the wing staff for the commander, ensuring they support all the groups and squadrons at Duke and Eglin with top-notch customer service.

“If the wing staff isn't giving you what you need, I want to hear about it,” he said.

Additionally, he manages the Wing Lessons Learned pro-

gram and the new Air Force policy on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, he said.

Colonel Kyle, the wing commander, said he is already impressed with the positive impact Colonel Ray has had on the wing in such a short time on the job. He has no doubt that his new vice commander can live up to his high expectations.

“I selected Colonel Ray for the job because of his excellent qualifications. He has the experience, both in peacetime and in combat, to bring instant credibility to the position and to help me guide the 919th in the years ahead.

“He is well respected within the wing, but more importantly, I have noticed that he truly cares about the 919th and all of our members. He's interested in keeping us at the forefront in the global war on terrorism as well as transforming us in the future to meet both Air Force and Reserve command goals,” said Colonel Kyle.

Colonel Ray will divide his time between the wing and United Airlines where he is a first officer on the Boeing 737 aircraft.

As a traditional reservist, he understands how hard it can be to juggle the Reserve, a civilian job and a family.

“I'm grateful to all the people in the 919th who have chosen to do this and the hard work everyone does out here,” he said.

While he is busy with his goal to ensure the 919th remains a combat ready wing, with everyone current, qualified and ready to fight, Colonel Ray offers the following advice.

“Work hard when you're out here, but don't forget to have a little fun too.”

RECOGNITION

NEWCOMERS

The 919th Special Operations Wing welcomes the following new member:

716th Maintenance Squadron
Staff Sgt. Eric Yra

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following people who were promoted to the rank indicated:

919th Special Operations Wing

Tech. Sgt. Charles. R. Merritt

Tech. Sgt. Robert L. Lewis

5th Special Operations Squadron

Master Sgt. Patrick J. Brannon

Master Sgt. Jeremy Cochran

919th Operations Support Squadron

Senior Airman Vashawn S. Guice

919th Maintenance Group

Tech. Sgt. Brent A. Havercroft

719th Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Keith E. Cochran

Tech. Sgt. Andy A. Roark

Staff Sgt. Darren S. Fitzpatrick

Senior Airman Tumua Puailoa

919th Maintenance Squadron

Master Sgt. Beth Brown

Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Barlotta

Staff Sgt. Ethan M. Cole

Senior Airman Jeremy Bubanas

Senior Airman Chris Raulerson

919th Civil Engineer Squadron

Staff Sgt. Jacob J. Freiermuht

Airman 1st Class Kristina Andreozzi

Airman Daniel A. Arterburn

Airman Robert Short Jr.

Airman David L. Williams

919th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Senior Airman Michael P. Bryant

Airman 1st Class Latoya S. Seawright

Airman Carolyn J. Harris

Airman Michelle R. Mendes

919th Services Flight

Master Sgt. Gary D. Carter

Airman Demetrious Bass

919th Medical Squadron

Master Sgt. Stacey M. Coplen

Tech. Sgt. Saundra J. Britton

Staff Sgt. Deanna M. Fedi

Staff Sgt. Stacey L. Jackowiak

Senior Airman Tiffany Brooke

Senior Airman Larry D. Threatt

Airman 1st Class Christina Bicknell

Airman 1st Class Sara E. Campbell

Airman David C. Dupriest

8th Special Operations Squadron

Capt. Nicholous M. Collins

716th Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Joshua Jones

Staff Sgt. Auric Beihl

Staff Sgt. Raphael Camacho III

Staff Sgt. Bradley Lidstone

Senior Airman Crystal Carter

Senior Airman Rayburn Erlacher

Senior Airman Melissa St Onge

RETIREMENTS

Congratulations to Master Sgt. Rodney Drake, 719th Maintenance Squadron, on his retirement. A ceremony is planned for 2 p.m. Dec. 4 at Building 439, Eglin Air Force Base. All wing members are invited.

Crossword solution, puzzle Page 10



KUDOS

Congratulations to the following members who earned their Community College of the Air Force Associate of Applied Science Degree this fall.

711th Special Operations Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Angela D. McGuire, Human Resources Management

719th Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Latoya M. Spencer, Information Management

Staff Sgt. John Scurfield, Aviation Maintenance Technology

919th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Master Sgt. John S. Brewer, Aviation Maintenance Technology

919th Communications Squadron

Senior Master Sgt. Mark D. Smith, Information Systems Technology

Tech. Sgt. Nikki D. Brace, Information Systems Technology

Tech. Sgt. Dwayne J. Sparks, Information Systems Technology

919th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Staff Sgt. Stefan B. Halushka, Transportation

Staff Sgt. Randall Hicks, Aviation Maintenance Technology

919th Mission Support Flight

Master Sgt. Karen M. Perrault, Human Resources Management

919th Services Flight

Tech. Sgt. Clifton R. Ricardo, Restaurant, Hotel and Fitness Management

919th Medical Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Willie F. Johnson, Health Care Management

Tech. Sgt. Michelle R. Linza, Allied Health Sciences

Staff Sgt. Emma R. Davis, Allied Health Sciences

Senior Airman April K. Miller, Public Health Technology



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Bedner

Sharp Troop

Staff Sgt. Peter Wong, 919th Communications Squadron information management journeyman, talks to a customer who called him for assistance. Sergeant Wong, this month's Sharp Troop, typically processes orders, administers the unit training assembly sign-in procedures and assists with technical computer support. The New York City native has been a reservist here for five years. He coaches basketball at the Fort Walton Beach YMCA in his free time.

Web lets reservists track education

Air Force reservists can now track their education progress, request transcripts and update personal education information on the Web.

Going through the Air Force Portal — and accessing the Virtual Education Center's Web site at <https://afvec.langley.af.mil> — saves reservists time and money. Now they will be able to perform some tasks previously done by their military personnel flight.

This transformation of customer service is the result of Air Force Reserve Command joining the active-duty Air Force Automated Education Management System.

Under the system, reserve education and training offices have access to the same services as the active-duty counterparts.

Unit reservists can learn more about the new system from wing education and training offices. (*AFRC News Service*)

Servicemembers who bought protective gear may be able to claim reimbursement

Some servicemembers who bought their own protective, safety or health equipment will get reimbursed for the purchase under a new policy approved Oct. 4. The order covers the period between Sept. 10, 2001, and Aug. 1, 2004. The legislation applies to a specified set of personal protection equipment and can be claimed by either the member or by another person on behalf of the member for the member's personal use in anticipation of, or during, the member's deployment for operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom.

Reimbursement is limited to the actual purchase price, plus shipping, of the equipment, and cannot exceed \$1,100 for any one piece of equipment. Servicemembers must have the receipts. Those claiming reimbursement must turn in their privately purchased gear which will be destroyed, as it may not meet government standards.

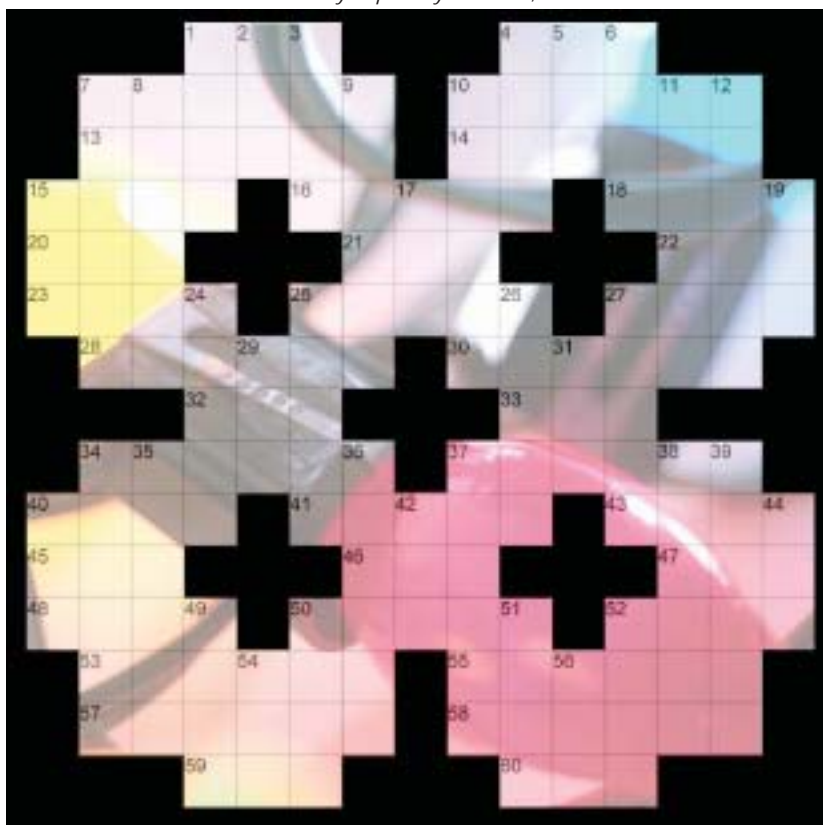
The complete Air Force Print News story is available at www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123012043.

AAFES starts electronic check processing

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service will start to electronically process checks in January. Now, instead of taking up to three days, checks may process instantly or in one day. The move is so the exchange service complies with "Check 21" legislation.

A person floats a check when he or she writes one for a purchase without having the actual amount in an account — and using the typical three-day processing time to get paid or move funds to cover it. Now, check writers must have the funds in their account, or their check will bounce. Electronic processing is cost-efficient since there is an automatic payment for each purchase.

The complete Air Force Print News story is available at www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123012383.



Merry Christmas Crossword Puzzle (Solution on Page 9)

ACROSS

1. Reindeer relative
4. TV channel
7. Deft
10. Capture a criminal
13. One of Santa's reindeers
14. Explore
15. Had on
16. Opine
18. Shouted by golfers
20. MDs' workplaces
21. Southwestern Native American
22. Color of Santa's digs
23. Rip
25. Distress
27. Black and Green
28. Santa's ride
30. Coats of arms
32. Before, poetically
33. Edge
34. This We'll ____; USA recruiter motto
37. Doctrines
40. Writes
41. An ungulate
43. Severenson and Holliday
45. 56, to Cassius
46. Teacher's org.
47. Trains, in short
48. "It ain't over...Till it's over!" Berra
50. Chilling
52. Hammer part
53. Skewer
55. ____ borealis; site seen at Santa's home
57. One of Santa's reindeers
58. Ski
59. SECDEF's office symbol
60. Descry

DOWN

1. Sea eagle
2. "Man of a thousand faces" Chaney
3. Ukrainian city
4. Place for Christmas presents
5. Swim wear part
6. Servant
7. Loves
8. Fish's fin
9. Place to feed reindeers
10. Climb
11. Kobe Bryant in basketball is one
12. Groove on a screw
15. Damp
17. Simpson trial judge
19. Actors O'Neil and Harris
24. Marine ridges
25. T-man
26. More nimble, in nautical terms
27. Domesticated
29. Anger
31. Receptacle
34. Barren of anything
35. Mystery
36. One of Santa's reindeers
37. Crowns
38. Matador
39. Shout
40. Use
42. Pod denizen
44. Mil. ID
49. ____ facto; by that very fact
50. Gift item for children in winter
51. Season or feast celebrating Christmas
52. North ____; Santa's home
54. Used to express accomplishment
56. Singer Charles

December UTA paydays

The payday for the December unit training assembly will be Dec. 13 if the UTA pay system data is turned into the wing finance office before 8:30 a.m. the day after the UTA. If the data is received after 8:30 a.m., the pay date will be Dec. 15.

Military Personnel Flight hours

MPF customer service hours for the UTA are 7 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. The MPF is closed on UTA Sundays at 2 p.m. for in-house training.

Squadrons change hands

Maj. Wendy Deemer will take command of the 719th Maintenance Squadron at 7:30 a.m. Dec. 3 at Building 439, Eglin Air Force Base. Lt. Col. Timothy R. Tuel will take command of the 919th Medical Squadron at 10 a.m. Dec. 4 in the Duke Field Theater. All wing members are invited to attend.

Commander names bonus AFSCs

The following 919th Special Operations Wing positions are designated as bonus Air Force Specialty Codes for enlistments and reenlistments for the period Oct. 1 through

March 31: Loadmaster (1A2X1), Radio Operator (1A3X1), and Security Forces (3P0X1). Some restrictions apply. For additional information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Monte Meredith, wing career advisor, at 883-6134.

Top 3 plans induction ceremony

The Senior NCO and NCO Induction Ceremony is scheduled for 2 p.m. Jan 7 in the Duke Field Theater. Invitees should respond to Master Sgt. John Witcher, 883-6733, by the December UTA of their plans to attend.

Plans set for Black History Month

Command Chief Master Sergeant Jackson A. Winsett, Air Force Reserve Command, is the scheduled speaker for the Black History Month lunch scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Feb. 5 at the Duke Field Dining Facility. People may contact Tech. Sgt. Ruby Knight or Master Sgt. Karyn Combs, 919th Military Equal Opportunity, 883-6718, for more information.

Medical squadron plans briefings

The 919th Medical Squadron will provide Suicide Awareness and Violence Prevention Training this unit training assembly for any wing member who needs the required train-



Looking Ahead

Events listed below are scheduled for the dates indicated. Some dates could change; however, this list is provided for planning purposes.

Jan UTA: Ability to Survive and Operate exercise

Jan. 7: Senior NCO/NCO Induction Ceremony

Jan. 8: Quarterly Awards Ceremony

February UTA: Black History Month events

March 1-8: Operational Readiness Exercise Phase 1 and 2

April 1: Family Day, Parade Grounds

June: Operational Readiness Inspection; Phase 2 to be scheduled between July and September

ing or who wants to attend. Training should take about an hour and is scheduled at 9 a.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday in the Duke Field Theater. First Lt. Francine Ricks, 883-5305, is the point of contact for additional information.

UTA Highlights

Newcomers need to report to the Building 3002 Conference Room for inprocessing by 7 a.m. Saturday.

The schedule for fiscal 2006 is Dec. 3-4, Jan. 7-8, Feb. 4-5, March 4-5, April 1-2, May 6-7, June 3-4, July 8-9, Aug. 5-6, and Sept. 9-10.

Time	Activity	Location	Point of Contact
Saturday, 7 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.			
7:30 a.m.	719th Maintenance Squadron Change of Command	Building 439, Eglin AFB	Master Sgt. Christiana Garton, 882-6055
7:30 to 11 a.m.	Immunizations (Yellow Fever 9 to 10 a.m.)	Building 3120	Tech. Sgt. Chris Fordham, 883-2982
8 a.m. to noon	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive Refresher	Building 3025	Senior Master Sgt. Chris McKinley, 883-6484
8:30 to 9:30 a.m.	Chief's Meeting	Building 3077, CC Conf. Room	Chief Master Sgt. John Allen, 883-6331
8:30 to 10:30 a.m.	CCAF/GI Bill Counseling	Building 3021	Senior Master Sgt. Jackie Odom, 883-6910
9 to 11 a.m.	Unit Deployment Manager Meeting	Building 3077, Room 5	Senior Master Sgt. Kim Hernandez, 883-6047
9 to 11 a.m.	Inspector General	Building 3021, Suite 1	Lt. Col. Michael Thormal, 883-6571
11:30 a.m.	Top Three Meeting	Duke Field Theater	Master Sgt. Laurie Klausutis, 883-6457
Noon to 4 p.m.	CBRNE Refresher	Building 3025	Sergeant McKinley
Noon to 1 p.m.	Exercise Evaluation Team Meeting	Building 3076, MXG Conf. Room	Lt. Col. Joe Arthur, 883-6723
12:30 p.m.	Sponsors pick up newcomers	Building 3077, Room 202	Tech. Sgt. Karl Morris, 883-6458
Sunday, 7 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.			
7:15 a.m. to noon	Military Equal Opportunity Training	Building 3077, Room 209	Maj. Grisel DeLeon, 883-6718
7:15 a.m.	Catholic Service	Pine Tree Area	Chaplain
8 a.m.	Protestant Service	Pine Tree Area	Chaplain
8 a.m.	End-of-Course Testing	Building 3021	Senior Master Sgt. Karen Hendren, 883-6929
8 a.m.	Drug Testing	Building 3014	Tech. Sgt. Willie Johnson, 883-6377
10 a.m.	919th Medical Squadron Assumption of Command	Duke Field Theater	Maj. Nancy Walker, 883-6377
1 to 2 p.m.	Sexual Assault Prevention Brief	Building 3078, Briefing Room	Col. Kenneth Ray, 883-5983
1 to 3:45 p.m.	Supervisor Safety Training	Building 3002, Conf. Room	Tech. Sgt. George Caprioli, 883-6723
1:30 p.m.	Black History Month Meeting	Building 3002, Room 117	Major DeLeon

Civil engineers raise money, build camaraderie

By Jasmine DeNamur
919th SOW Public Affairs

Members of the 919th Civil Engineer Squadron provided meals for unit personnel Nov. 2-4 during the Operational Readiness Exercise while fundraising for unit events at the same time.

"There were a lot of people staying in billeting during this time, and we wanted to make it easier for them to have breakfast and lunch without having to leave the base for a bite to eat," said Master Sgt. Jo Vonschoeler, 919th CES operations and resources superintendent.

People working the mobility line during the exercise were also invited, she said.

Breakfast items included biscuit sandwiches and Danish pastries, and an assortment of lunch items were also sold. Prices ranged from \$1 for the biscuits to \$4 for one hamburger or sub or \$5 for two.

Another money maker was the pie contest where people donated money in the name of an individual. Whoever got the most money donated in their name "won" the pie. Chief Master Sgt. William Posey, 919th CES fire chief, received the most monetary votes.

"I couldn't think of a more deserving chief to get an entire pie up close and personal like he did," said Col. Mark Kyle, 919th Special Operations Wing commander. "I talked to him earlier that morning. Little did he know that in a few hours, I would donate my weekly allowance to see such a worthy recipient get the pie."



Photo by Master Sgt. Jo Vonschoeler

(Left to right) Chief Master Sgt. William Posey, 919th Civil Engineer Squadron fire chief gets more than his share of pie, compliments of Chief Master Sgt. Deborah Adkins, 919th CES operations superintendent. The squadron raised \$1,345 from fundraisers Nov. 2-4.

A total of \$1,345 was raised from the meals, pie contest, and blanket raffles.

"We couldn't have done it without some of the spouses of CE personnel," said Chief Master Sgt. Deborah Adkins, 919th CES operations superintendent.

Patty Bilbo donated baked goods, and Mary Mayshack donated blankets, she said.

Many also helped through setting up, processing the sales, and cleaning up, said Sergeant Vonschoeler.

"With the hectic schedule throughout the week, we were able to get our people fed quickly. The perk is that the money will go towards our annual Christmas party," she said.

"I think what that group did to make the ORE and training week more enjoyable was just great," said Colonel Kyle. "These events build camaraderie, and those organizations that work and play hard together seem to rise to any occasion. CE set the standard on both."

Midnight Express

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Midnight Express are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 919th Special Operations Wing (Air Force Reserve), Eglin AFB Field 3 (Duke Field), Fla. 32542-6622, (850) 883-6347. All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

919th SOW Editorial Staff

Commander.....Col. Mark Kyle
Chief, Public Affairs....Maj. Beena N. Maharaj
EditorSandra Henry
Staff writer.....Senior Airman Erik Hofmeyer
Staff writer.....Staff Sgt. Jeremy Bedner
Art and Graphics.....Jasmine DeNamur

919th Special Operations Wing / PA
100 East Ford St., Room 155
Eglin AFB Fld 3 FL 32542-6622
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

To the family of: